

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as shown in the complete claim set for this application. This listing of claims will replace all prior claims in the application:

**1-20. (Cancelled)**

21. **(New)** A method of operating a vehicle telematics device as a communication gateway, comprising the steps of:

receiving a transmission at the vehicle telematics device on a primary vehicle, wherein the transmission is sent from a wireless modem unit on a secondary vehicle equipped to communicate through a first communication protocol;

establishing communication between the vehicle telematics device on the primary vehicle and a service provider through a second communication protocol for which the secondary vehicle is not equipped;

establishing a communication gateway between the secondary vehicle and the service provider utilizing the vehicle telematics device on the primary vehicle; and

communicating data between the secondary vehicle and the service provider via the communication gateway.

22. **(New)** The method of claim 21, wherein the receiving step is carried out in response to a polling message transmitted from the primary vehicle.

23. **(New)** The method of claim 21, wherein the receiving step further comprises receiving a request from the secondary vehicle to establish a communication gateway for the secondary vehicle to the service provider.

24. **(New)** The method of claim 21, wherein the first communication protocol includes at least one communications protocol selected from the list consisting of: 802.11 series, Bluetooth, Wi-Fi, direct-sequence spread spectrum, frequency-hopping spread spectrum, and shared wireless access protocol.

25. **(New)** The method of claim 21, wherein the second communication protocol is a cellular packet protocol.

26. **(New)** The method of claim 21, further comprising the steps of:

receiving identification information from the secondary vehicle at the primary vehicle; and

transmitting the identification information from the primary vehicle to the service provider for authentication of the secondary vehicle.

27. **(New)** The method of claim 21, further comprising the steps of:

receiving a data stream for the communication gateway from the service provider, the data stream including instructions for the communication gateway; and

implementing the received instructions.

28. **(New)** The method of claim 21, further comprising the steps of:

receiving instructions in the form of a data stream from the vehicle telematics device of the primary vehicle; and

executing the instructions using one or more programs stored on the secondary vehicle.

29. **(New)** A method of operating a vehicle telematics device as a communication gateway, comprising the steps of:

detecting at the vehicle telematics device on a primary vehicle a wireless access point for a secondary vehicle;

establishing communication between the secondary vehicle and the vehicle telematics device on the primary vehicle utilizing a first communication protocol;

establishing communication between the vehicle telematics device on the primary vehicle and a service provider utilizing a second communication protocol not supported by the secondary vehicle; and

communicating software updates to the secondary vehicle from the service provider via the primary vehicle.

30. **(New)** The method of claim 29, wherein the secondary vehicle is not equipped to communicate through the second communication protocol.

31. **(New)** The method of claim 29, wherein the detecting step further comprises detecting a wireless modem unit on the secondary vehicle.

32. **(New)** The method of claim 29, wherein the detecting step further comprises receiving a transmission at the vehicle telematics device on the primary vehicle in response to a polling message transmitted from the primary vehicle.

33. **(New)** The method of claim 29, wherein the step of establishing communication between the secondary vehicle and the vehicle telematics device on the primary vehicle further comprises establishing communication between a wireless modem unit on the secondary vehicle and the vehicle telematics device on the primary vehicle.

34. **(New)** The method of claim 29, further comprising the steps of:  
receiving a data stream for the secondary vehicle from the service provider, the data stream including instructions for the secondary vehicle; and  
implementing the received instructions at the secondary vehicle.

35. **(New)** The method of claim 29, further comprising the steps of:  
receiving instructions in the form of a data stream from the vehicle telematics device of the primary vehicle; and  
executing the instructions using one or more programs stored on the secondary vehicle.

36. **(New)** The method of claim 29, further comprising the steps of:

storing the software updates from the service provider in a database located on the primary vehicle; and

updating the secondary vehicle with the software updates when communication is established between the primary vehicle and secondary vehicle.

37. **(New)** The method of claim 29, further comprising the steps of:

notifying the service provider of an identification of one or more secondary vehicles;

initiating one or more programs for updating software on the one or more secondary vehicles; and

providing software updates to the one or more secondary vehicles.

38. **(New)** A method of operating a vehicle telematics device as a communication gateway, comprising the steps of:

detecting at the vehicle telematics device on a primary vehicle a wireless access point to a local secondary vehicle;

establishing communication between the secondary vehicle and the primary vehicle utilizing a first communication protocol;

establishing communication between the vehicle telematics device on the primary vehicle and a service provider utilizing a second communication protocol not enabled on the secondary vehicle;

notifying the service provider from the vehicle telematics device of the identification of the secondary vehicle; and

communicating triggers to the secondary vehicle from the service provider via the primary vehicle.

39. **(New)** The method of claim 38, further comprising the steps of:

receiving instructions in the form of a data stream from the primary vehicle at the secondary vehicle; and

executing the instructions upon activation of the communicated triggers.

40. **(New)** The method of claim 38, further comprising the step of triggering the secondary vehicle to provide diagnostic data to the service provider via the primary vehicle.